Migration of labourers in Orissa

2678. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any information that a large number of labourers are being migrated from KBK Districts of Orissa after the harvesting seasons; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the migration of labour force from these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain data regarding the labourer migrated from KBK Districts of Orissa. However, the Ministry of Rural Development implements with the State Governments, the major self and wage employment generation schemes namely, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) in rural areas of the country and the schemes under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). The NREGA has been made effective since 2nd February, 2006 in 200 most backward districts and provides legal Guarantee for 100 days of unskilled manual work to each rural households demanding for it in a financial year.

(b) The objective of these schemes are to provide supplementary wage employment, food security and creation of rural infrastructure and also to check migration from rural to urban areas.

Reforms in Textile sector

2679. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textiles sector needs more reforms and investment;

(b) whether the IMF has asked India to step up reforms and investment in this sector to bolster the sector's competitiveness; and

(c) if so, the action plan of the Centre to revamp and upgrade this sector and remove the existing constraints to boost up its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Since reforms and investment are continuous process, the Textiles sector needs more reforms and investment. However, the IMF has not asked India to step up reforms and investment in this sector to bolster the sector's competitiveness. Certain important measures taken by the Government to strengthen the Indian Textile Sector include:—

(i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganised sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.

(iii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in July 2005.

(iv) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty.

(v) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery items appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

(vi) In the Current Budget (2006-07), with a view to making textile industry more competitive:—

* Import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG has been reduced from 15% to 10% and for paraxylene from 5% to 2%.
* CENVAT on all man made fibre and yarn has been reduced from 16% to 8% and import duty on all man made fibre and yarns from 15% to 10%.
* The peak rate of *ad-valorem* component of customs duty for all non-agricultural products including textiles has been reduced from 15% to 12.5%.
* Special CVD of 4% has been extended to all goods in order to counter balance various internal taxes like sales tax and VAT and to provide a level playing field to indigenous goods which have to bear these taxes. However, fabrics are exempted from this levy.

(vii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the textile sector under automatic route.

(viii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(ix) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(x) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

(xi) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by including trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

Unsatisfactory implementation of poverty alleviation programme

†2680. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poverty alleviation programme is not being run satisfactorily as a result of which amount disbursed for the same is being squandered;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.